

Dr. Gero Gaevernitz, 68, Dead; Had Role in German Surrender

Associate of Dulles in O.S.S.
 Helped Arrange Capitulation
 of Troops in 2 Countries

Dr. Gero von Schulze Gaevernitz, a former member of the Office of Strategic Services who helped to arrange the negotiations for Germany's surrender in Italy during World War II, died of a heart attack April 6 in the Canary Islands, where he had been recuperating from an earlier heart attack. He was 68 years old.

Dr. Gaevernitz was a close associate of the late Allen W. Dulles, who headed the O.S.S. mission in Switzerland during the war and his role in the negotiations is described in Mr. Dulles's book "The Secret Surrender."

Born in Germany, he subsequently became a citizen of the United States. He remained in Switzerland, where his family had business interests, at the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 and was in contact with forces in Germany who were plotting the overthrow of Hitler.

Dr. Gaevernitz later wrote an account of the German underground efforts, "They Almost Killed Hitler," as it was told to him by Count Fabian von Schlabrendorff, one of the underground leaders.

Once, as Hitler was entering his private plan, the count was instrumental in placing a time bomb aboard, wrapping it to look like a package of brandy bottles. "It was a great nervous strain to remain quiet at this juncture," he is later quoted in the book. The bomb failed to explode, however, and the count had to rush to Hitler's headquarters to get it back before the attempt was discovered.

Dr. Gaevernitz was involved in arranging and participating in nearly all the conferences and discussions that led to the signing of the instrument of surrender by the German repre-



Gero von Schulze Gaevernitz

sentatives at Caserta, Italy on April 29, 1945. That document about a million German troops resulted in the surrender of in Italy and Southern Austria.

For his role in the negotiations, Dr. Gaevernitz was awarded the United States Medal of Freedom.

At the end of the war, he went to Germany as special assistant to Mr. Dulles, then chief of the O.S.S. mission there to establish liaison between occupation forces and the various anti-Nazi groups. He also assisted in the selection of German personnel for administrative positions.

Dr. Gaevernitz studied economics in various European universities, earned a Ph.D. with a thesis on some of England's economic problems after World War I and came to the United States in 1925. He became a citizen a few years later. His father, a professor, had helped to draw up the Constitution of the Weimar Republic. Dr. Gaevernitz had been living in Switzerland and Germany before he was stricken several months ago.

Surviving are two sisters, Ruth and Mrs. Marga Stinnes.

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